

Appln No. 10/586,081
Amdt date July 8, 2011
Reply to Office action of April 4, 2011

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method for the manufacture of a three-dimensional object comprising the following steps:
 - applying a layer of particles onto a target surface;
 - irradiating a selected part of the layer that corresponds to a cross-section of the object with a beam of energy or a jet of liquid such that the particles in the selected part become connected to each other;
 - repeating the steps of application and irradiation such that the connected parts of adjacent layers connect to each other to form the object;

wherein the particles that are used contain at least one cavity and are at least partially dissolved, induced to chemically react, or melted by the beam of energy or jet of liquid, and wherein the particles are irradiated such that the cavities are essentially preserved, and wherein the volume fraction of the cavities accounts for minimally 30% and maximally 90% of the volume of the particles.

- 3-22 (Cancelled)